

Hawai'i Coalition for Dads

Hawai'i Dads

(Makua kàne)

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Dad tip...

**Time for
your KIDS.**

**Time for
your DAD.**



Honolulu Star-Bulletin, June 2002.

Hang Time

For HCD Fatherhood Resource Center, mass media, and Father's Month activities

3-year HMSA Foundation grant to PACT supports HCD

Parents And Children Together (PACT) has been awarded a 3-year, \$168,000 grant from the HMSA Foundation to support the Hawai'i Coalition for Dads (HCD) efforts to promote involved, nurturing, responsible fatherhood in Hawai'i.

The HMSA Foundation 2006-09 grant supports HCD's work to expand its Fatherhood Resource Center's activities, including: information & referral, promoting fatherhood through the mass media, distributing educational materials, carrying out Father's Month proclamations and events each June, and promoting public policies that help fathers be more involved with raising their children (in conjunction with the State Commission on Fatherhood and other family service and health agencies).

~HI Dads~

State Commission on Fatherhood

Parent Friendly Business Awards

State Commission on Fatherhood Chair, Greg Farstrup (HCD Coordinator), presented the Hawai'i State Legislature's first *Parent Friendly Business Awards* to **First Hawaiian Bank** and **Keiki O Ka 'Āina Family Learning Centers** at the special Children and Youth Month awards ceremonies at Washington Place on October 28, 2005.

~HI Dads~

HawaiiHomeDads.com: For Hawaii's Stay-At-Home Fathers

Hawaii Home Dads

HCD is pleased to introduce you to stay-at-home dad David Gibson's **HawaiiHomeDads.com** web site.

On his site David says: "I hope this site becomes a place where stay-at-home fathers in Hawaii can come for information, to get support, and form social groups. I still need to add more links, activities, and information to the site. I also need to get the word out so that stay at home dads can find the site. I hope that other stay-at-home dads will provide their names, children's names and ages, location, and preferred contact information so we can start forming play groups for our kids and social groups for us dads.

If there is anything you would like added to this dads web site, or if you want your name added to the list of At Home Dads, please e-mail David at drigibson@HawaiiHomeDads.com.

~HI Dads~

Through downtown Honolulu

Men's March Against Violence

The Hawai'i Coalition for Dads carried its banners and walked in the 10th Annual Men's March Against Violence on Thursday, October 27, 2005, starting at Noon at the Kekaulike Plaza in Chinatown and ending with a rally at Honolulu Hale. At the rally various individuals spoke to increase awareness about the problem of domestic violence.

Sponsored by Catholic Charities since 1995, men, women, and children have marched, rallied, and spoken out to put an end to domestic violence by asking everyone to be part of the solution.

~HI Dads~

Involved Dads do lotsa *Hang Time*

Father Facts**McKinley High School PTSA Newsletter**

Mahalo to Anne Chamness, Family Facilitator and 1st Vice President of the McKinley High School PTSA, for reprinting the Hawai'i Coalition for Dads' *Father Facts* sheet in the *McKinley High School PTSA Newsletter* (Sept. 2005).

FATHER FACTS**Fathers' presence matters for children.**

Better school performance. Children perform better in school, both academically and socially, when their fathers are involved in their schooling, including attending meetings and volunteering.

Avoiding high-risk behaviors. Children with involved, loving fathers are significantly more likely to avoid high risk behaviors such as drug use, truancy, and criminal activity compared to children who have uninvolved fathers.

Higher self-esteem. Students who have higher self-esteem and lower depression reported having a good relationship with their fathers.

Less substance abuse. Even after controlling for closeness to mothers, the closer that teens are to their fathers, the less likely they are to use drugs.

Source: Social Policy Action Network (www.span-online.org).

Children who grow up without a father are:

- **Two times more likely to drop out of high school**
- **More likely to be unemployed or incarcerated (boys)**
- **More likely to become unwed/teenage moms (girls)**
- **More likely to be confined to juvenile justice facilities**
- **Five times more likely to be poor**

Children with fathers who are involved caregivers and "emotionally present" grow up to be more empathetic, compassionate adults than children whose fathers are silent or absent.

Girls whose fathers take an active parenting role are less likely to become sexually active at an early age. They are also more likely to create healthy adult relationships.

Children whose fathers play with them a lot tend to be more popular with their peers.

Boys whose fathers are absent have problems balancing their behavior between masculine assertiveness and self-restraint.

Boys with absent fathers have more trouble learning self control and accepting delayed gratification, both of which are necessary for effective friendships, academic success, and achieving career goals.

A father's presence is a significant factor for girls in both academic and career achievement.

Source: The Fatherhood Foundation (www.fatherhoodfoundation.org)

~HI Dads~

Every child a planned, wanted, and nurtured child

Fathers and Family Planning

Adapted from World Health Organization information.

Fathers play a vitally important role in the family by sharing responsibility for family planning as well as child rearing.

The involvement of fathers and men in sexual and reproductive health is crucial, both in their willingness to use "male methods" of contraception and their role in contraceptive decision-making.

Each father can strengthen his family planning by developing positive male attitudes toward reproductive health, communication about sexuality and family planning, and reproductive rights.

Information and programs about reproductive health can reach men in their work places, at home, where they gather for recreation, through youth programs, school education and peer counseling, as well as through primary health care visits and family planning clinics.

Prime family planning messages for men and fathers:

1. Men can participate in family planning by sharing in decision-making about family size and contraceptive use.
2. Men can take responsibility for using some methods of contraception and can support their partners in using other methods.
3. By sharing responsibility for child rearing, men not only ease women's burden but also contribute to the emotional development and well-being of their children.

Supporting information:

1. Men need to participate in family planning by sharing in decision making about family size and contraceptive use.

In many societies, men are the primary decision makers regarding family planning. Yet decisions about family planning are often made without sufficient communication between men and women. Efforts to improve couples' communication can help lead to decisions about family planning that reflect the needs of both women and men.

Men need information to participate responsibly in family planning decision-making. Men can learn more about family planning by accompanying their partners on clinic visits and by taking advantage of special clinic hours for men, where available.

2. Men need to take responsibility for using some methods of contraception, and can support their partners use of other methods.

Although the overwhelming majority of contraceptive methods are designed for use by women, a few require the active cooperation of men. Methods that require active participation by men include condoms, vasectomy, natural family planning, and withdrawal.

Men also can participate in women's use of other methods. For instance, men can help their partners remember to take a pill every day or to return to the clinic for regular injections. Men also can help their partners by organizing transportation to the clinic, paying for family planning

methods and services, and taking care of children during clinic visits.

3. By sharing responsibility for child rearing, men not only ease women's burden but also contribute to the emotional development and well-being of their children.

Participation of fathers in child rearing enhances their children's emotional and social well-being. Children raised with active participation of fathers also are more likely to succeed in school.

Participation of fathers in child-rearing and household care reduces the burden that women face in providing financial support for families and in performing household chores and child care.

Men also benefit when they care for their children. Many fathers find emotional satisfaction and increased confidence in their child-rearing skills.

Men's support for women during pregnancy, delivery, and the postpartum period has not been promoted effectively in the U.S. and other countries.

Indeed, many health facilities are set up in a way that prevents men who wish to be involved from getting involved.

More activities and programs need to be put in place that recognize the critical role of men in all aspects of sexual and reproductive health and in the support they can provide to women in this respect.

~HI Dads~

*Fathers & Gangs***Active Fathers Keep Their Kids Out of Gangs**

There is a gang in a southwestern U.S. city with a unique name: “Los Fathalos”—the fatherless.

The members are identified not by a common location, but by the fact that they all come from fatherless households. It's a requirement for gang membership.

For boys and young men who don't have a healthy male presence at home, gangs provide two important benefits: 1. **A feeling of protection (or someone who will stand up for them),** and

2. **A sense of belonging and community among other males.**

“The gang is fulfilling the father role in the lives of too many youth!” notes Marie Bracki, Associate Professor of Psychology at Louis University in Chicago. “There is no use in trying to intervene in gangs if that intervention doesn't include a father figure.”

Fathers provide their sons with a sense of protection and a sense of community. Fathers should affirm their sons as young men and as beloved sons, and do things that build a close father-son bond. Further, men can reach out to kids who don't have a healthy male influence. They are all around us—in our neighborhoods, our children's schools, and our churches. We can include them in some of our family's activities and be the positive role models that they need.

~HI Dads~

Hawai'i Dads READER FEEDBACK**“But will they tell others about my past?”**

Mahalo for the following cautionary e-mail from a *Hawai'i Dads* reader about the “Should you be honest with your kids?” excerpts from Mark Brandenburg's *Dads Don't Fix Your Kids Newsletter* (Aug. 2005; @ markbrandenburg.com) in the last *Hawai'i Dads* (Summer 2005):

“I noticed the newsletter article about what/when/how you should tell your kids about your past, and I think it makes a good point about considering their maturity level. I think that should include what their level of discretion is. It discusses whether parents should admit to a child their past ‘transgressions.’

“It does not consider whether the child is likely to pass this information on. The issue is not only whether the child is old enough to understand, but also whether the child is old enough to maintain the parent's privacy and secrecy. A parent has to assume that the child may pass on the information to others.”

Mums the word?

~HI Dads~

Support the HAWAI'I COALITION FOR DADS.

Help promote involved, nurturing, responsible fatherhood in Hawai'i.

☐ Please keep me informed about the activities of the Hawai'i Coalition for Dads.

☐ I would like to volunteer to help; contact me.

☐ Here is my contribution. \$ _____

~ Your donations are tax-deductible. ~

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please make your check payable to: **Hawai'i Coalition for Dads/PACT**

Phone: 841-2245

...and send it to: 1485 Linapuni St. #105

E-mail: HawaiiDads@pacthawaii.org

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819

Hawai'i Coalition for Dads

Promoting involved, nurturing, responsible fatherhood.

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GOALS:

1. To increase community awareness about fatherhood.
2. To promote the availability and accessibility of quality, father-centered community resources.
3. To advocate for informed public policy regarding fatherhood.
4. To strengthen community collaboration in support of fatherhood.
5. To respect and honor everyone's unique role in children's lives.

The Hawai'i Coalition for Dads, with funding from the Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund under the umbrella of Parents And Children Together (PACT), is a group of individuals and organizations (including *Alu Like*, *Family Support Services of West Hawai'i*, *Good Beginnings Alliance*, *Hana Like Home Visitor Program*, *Head Start agencies*, *Kamehameha Schools' Extension Education Division*, *Mediation Center of Molokai*, *PARENTS*, and *Navy Fleet & Family Support Center*) that shares information about services to fathers and promotes involved, nurturing, responsible fatherhood.

Fatherhood & Family Resources (O'ahu)**Fathering & Parenting Education & Support:**

1. **TIFFE** (Nurturing Fathers; Playgroups) (596-8433; tiffe.org)
2. **The Baby Hui** (groups for Dads, and Moms) (735-2484; thebabyhui.org)
3. **Navy Fleet & Family Support Center** (Boot Camp For New Dads) (473-4222; greatlife-hawaii.com)
4. **PARENTS** (Confident Parenting Classes) (235-0488)
5. **Parents Without Partners** (262-6442)
6. **The Parent Line** (Info & Referral) (526-1222; theparentline.org)
7. **AUW – 211**; auw.org/211
8. **HPIRG** (HI Parental Information & Resource Centers) (841-6177; hawaiiipirc.org)
9. **SPIN** (Special Parent Information Network) (586-8126; spinhawaii.org)
10. **Big Brothers Big Sisters** (support for single dads and moms) (521-3811; bigshonolulu.org)
11. **Families For R.E.A.L.** (Leeward: 453-6478; Windward: 233-5656)
12. **Good Beginnings Alliance** (Playgroups) (531-5502; goodbeginnings.org)
13. **ALU LIKE** (Hawaiian families) (535-6700; alulike.org)
14. **Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center** (Hawaiian families) (847-1302; qlcc.org)
15. **PACT** (Family Centers; Hana Like; Head Start; Family Peace Center) (847-3285; pacthawaii.org)

Family Counseling:

1. **Child & Family Service** (681-3500; cfs-hawaii.org)
2. **Catholic Charities Family Services** (536-1794; catholiccharitieshawaii.org)
3. **Hawaii Psychological Assn.** (521-8995; hawaiipsych.org)
4. **Kaiser Medical Center** (432-0000; kaiserpermanente.org)
5. **HMSA** (948-6111; hmsa.com)
6. **Aloha Care** (973-1650; alohacare.com)
7. **Med-QUEST** (587-3521; med-quest.us)
8. Suicide prevention help (**ACCESS Line (DOH): 832-3100**)

Religious resources: Contact your place of worship...church, temple, synagogue

Internet Resources (check on their "Links," too):

1. **mr.dad** (mrdad.com)
2. **fathers.com** (fathers.com)
3. **Boot Camp For New Dads** (newdads.com)
4. **National Fatherhood Initiative** (fatherhood.org)
5. **Dad at a Distance** (daads.com)